From: Bob Perciasepe/DC/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/3/2012 4:06:47 PM

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
CC:
Subject: Re: Greenwire: EPA lab report shows flaws in Wyo. water study

Ex. 5 - Deliberative
Bob Perciasepe
Deputy Administrator
(o)202 564 4711
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: 01/03/2012 03:27 PM EST
To: Bob Perciasepe
Subject: RE: Greenwire: EPA lab report shows flaws in Wyo. water study

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Bob Perciasepe [mailto:Perciasepe.Bob@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 3:23 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Re: Greenwire: EPA lab report shows flaws in Wyo. water study

Ex. 5 - Deliberative
Bob Perciasepe
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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: 01/03/2012 03:20 PM EST
To: Bob Perciasepe
Subject: Greenwire: EPA lab report shows flaws in Wyo. water study

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/01/03/13

OIL AND GAS:

EPA lab report shows flaws in Wyo. water study

Published: Tuesday, January 3, 2012

U.S. EPA improperly analyzed water samples in a controversial draft report that suggested a possible link between tainted water in Wyoming and the natural gas drilling technique of hydraulic fracturing, according to the agency's recently released lab report.

Water samples taken from six private drinking water wells and two EPA-drilled deep monitoring wells were not tested quickly enough after they were taken in April 2011. "Maintenance of the laboratory floor" at the agency's facility in Golden, Colo., caused the hold, according to EPA's lab data report.

Such outdated samples would normally be replaced with fresh samples, but EPA did not do that. Instead, estimates of the sample data were included in the draft report.
"Basically, if you want to have valid laboratory results, you want to have them sampled within that certain time period," said Keith Clarey, a professional geologist and water development commission program manager for the state of Wyoming.
Clarey also said EPA relied on too few samples.
"Statistically you need to have 8-10 data points at a minimum," he said. "To only have those two -- it's not really a scientifically valid study."
EPA also found water contamination in pure water control samples, did not purge the test wells correctly before collecting samples and did not mention in its report whether it tested water transported by a truck used in well drilling, water well experts with the Wyoming Water Development Commission said.
"They didn't follow their own protocol they would've required of other people doing this same type of work," said Mike Purcell, director of the commission staff (Jeremy Fugleberg, Casper [Wyo.] *Star-Tribune*, Dec. 27).
Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania EPA officials are also reopening their review of water supplies in Dimock Township after seeing the results of a natural gas drilling contractor's latest round of tests on water wells that state regulators found to have been tainted with methane by the company.
After a preliminary review of water test results taken by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp., EPA told Dimock Township residents the information "does not indicate that the well water presents an immediate health threat to users" in early December.
But during a visit last week, EPA said the new information "merit[s] further investigation." EPA is now "concerned about" potential gaps in water sampling and test results, the number of water supplies possibly affected, whether residents have alternate sources of fresh drinking water, and if residents can provide further data, according to an information sheet officials provided to residents.
Test results of residents' water supplies done by Cabot were marked confidential in litigation between the company and 11 of the affected families but were released in early December after a preliminary review by EPA. Those tests, taken in August and September, showed elevated levels of metals and bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. They also detected other chemicals in the drinking water wells, including glycols, which are used in antifreeze, surfactants and the solvent 2-methoxyethanol (Laura Legere, Scranton [Pa.] *Times-Tribune*, Dec. 31). **-- AS**